

# Appendices

## *Conference Speeches*

### **Appendix A: Welcome and Opening Remarks**

By Governor John E. Baldacci

First, I want to thank all of you for being here today. The size of the turn-out alone testifies to the importance of natural-resource based industries to Maine and to our shared concern for their future.

And I want to thank everyone who contributed time, energy, and money to make this conference possible.

- Dick Barringer, Dick Davies, and the rest of the planning committee worked hard to organize this event.
- The authors of the papers did an excellent job stimulating new thought and discussion.
- I know our natural resource departments spent days reaching out to many of you for comments.
- Finally, I want to thank the sponsors of this event for their contributions. Without their support, we could not have brought all of you together.

And together is where we want to be when it comes to our natural resource-based industries—not just today, but after we leave here.

- When Maine became a state almost 200 years ago, 80% of our workers were employed in fishing, farming, or forestry. Today, the numbers aren't nearly the same—but the fundamental importance of natural resource businesses to our economy and our community character remains.
- Our large tourist industry is vitally linked to the land, water, habitat, and animal life that farming, fishing, and forestry help preserve. And natural resource-based industries are key to economic development in all of rural Maine.
- Natural resource businesses are also important to Maine's emerging retirement industry; to encouraging young people to make our state their home; and to entrepreneurs and researchers who want to work in a place with a high quality of life.
- And we wouldn't be Maine without the values our farmers, fishermen, and forest workers represent. Their values of hard work, resilience, and creativity are part of the character of Maine people.

We are all here today to roll up our sleeves, work hard, and be creative. You know better than I that for our natural resource-based industries to survive, we need to help move them into the future. And we want these businesses to do more than survive—we want them to thrive.

- For these industries to thrive, we must find new ways to protect and promote them. We must find new ways to add value and do all we can to put them on a sustainable path.

Your efforts today are just part of the beginning of this challenge. In my inaugural speech, I set forth the goal of this conference. At a summit in March, almost 100 of you began to develop the vision for this event. Today takes us another step along the way.

Maine people are depending on us—in government and the private sector—to come up with new strategies and investments that will build the economic vitality of our natural-resource based industries.

Your industries are under tremendous pressure—from global competition, from biological calamities, from changes in government policy. For many of you, I know these changes have added stresses to your need to simply make a living.

Amendment 13 and its impact on groundfishing is just the most recent example of a shock to Maine's oldest industries. I'm looking to the fishing community here today, as I'm looking to all the natural resource sectors present, to provide me with consensus on how we move ahead.

Together, I hope we will get through the pressures of these times so that we can continue in your industries to take advantage of two of Maine's greatest assets—our people and our natural resources.

For that is how we will bring greater economic growth to all regions of Maine—by developing our natural resources wisely, by preserving our cultural heritage, and by investing in our people. We want businesses and workers in Maine who are part of the well-paying information and service economies, and we want industries that help us combat sprawl and remain the stewards of the land and waters that Maine people have always been.

So today is part of the beginning. Government by itself can't bring our natural resource-based industries into a profitable future. We need the innovation and investment of the private sector to push us along, to show those of us in government how best we can help.

And we all need to acknowledge that the luxury of any “us versus them” thinking is gone for good when it comes to the Maine economy.

- We are all fortunate to be citizens of this beautiful state. Together, we need to organize ourselves—in business and in government—to be creative, to take advantage of technologies, to eliminate inefficiencies, to take risks to move into the future.
- During this afternoon's session you'll be looking at issues that cut across your sectors. I have found—in the restaurant business and in my public career—that teamwork and finding a way to tackle several problems with one solution is a good way to go.

Finally, there will be more work to do after today's conference to meet our goal of sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, forestry, and tourism. There will be weeks, months, and years of effort ahead. I promise to do my part and I ask all of you to stay engaged.

But first, give us your best thoughts and advice today as you respond to the draft recommendations from our departments. And thank you all again for giving us your time to help put Maine's natural resource-based industries on a path to prosperity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

I look forward to the results of your work today, and to hearing from you this afternoon. We'll see how far you've gotten and how far we have to go together.

Thank you.